

## How the Young Midshipman Lost His Good-Bye Kiss.

In the days of long ago a young midshipman in a western town received orders to join his ship, which was to sail to the capture of Vera Cruz. He was going off full of ardor and enthusiasm, just spilling to immolate himself on the altar of his country, but the night before he started he went to say good-bye to a beautiful little maiden to whom he was in love. He made the customary vows of a young officer going off to his first battle, but stayed so late that when he finally kissed his love farewell and ran to catch the stage, it was gone, and he was obliged to defer his departure until the next night. The next night he went to say good-bye again, and again he lost the stage. The third night he came for a positively last farewell, but as he was going to give his sweetheart a final kiss her mother interfered and said: "No, Jim, you can't kiss Mollie good-bye to-night. I don't believe you are going to Mexico at all. It is just a scheme of yours to come around here and kiss her good-bye."

He caught the stage that night, and fought bravely in Mexico. Years rolled by, and in his broader field of life, he forgot his boyish love. The civil war came, and at its close he was covered with glory. Now he is an admiral, and yesterday I was with him at the Murray Hill Hotel. We were walking the corridor when a beautiful woman, on the shady side of 50 I should say, with snow white hair, passed us, and stopping a little way off, stood and looked at the admiral. Being a fine-looking old gentleman, he is a great favorite with the ladies. At once he saw the impression he had made on the lady with the white hair, and said: "I am an old fool, I know, but I think I've made a 'dash.' Let us stroll by again." As we passed the lady the admiral beamed upon her graciously, but to his amazement she walked straight up to him, with a silvery laugh, and shaking her forefinger at him, said: "No, Jim, you are up to your old tricks again."

If the roof had fallen the admiral would not have been so much astonished, but quickly recovering his self-possession, he grasped the lady's hand and said: "Why, bless you, I knew you from the first, and wanted to see if you remembered me."

"Jim, Jim," she rejoined, "you are just as bad as ever. Why don't you grow better as you grow old? Now whom am I?" The admiral was nonplussed again, but with a grace, courtesy and sweetness that I have never seen equalled, he bowed and said: "My heart remembers you, for my heart is young—but my head is old, and my head forgets."

"Well," replied the lady, smiling up at him, "I am Mollie B." The admiral uttered an exclamation of surprise and stood for a moment looking at the lady. That name had swept away forty years with all their changes, their wars, their sufferings and their honors, and the admiral was a boy again. "I wish you could have seen his face. And I have not seen you since I went to the Mexican war," he said, "and your mother would not let me kiss you good-bye on the third night. By Jove, I believe I'll take this kiss now!"

"No, no! that is outlawed. Come, let me introduce you to my husband."

By this time the admiral had thought him to introduce me to the lady, and we were both presented to her husband. We had a pleasant party at dinner, and the admiral told the story of his departure for Mexico just as I have told it to you.

**Essay on Woman.**  
After man came woman.  
And she has been after him ever since.  
She is a person of free extraction, being made of man's rib.  
I don't know why Adam wanted to tool away his ribs in that way, but I suppose he was not accountable for all he did.

It costs more to keep a woman than three dogs and a shot-gun.  
But she pays you back with interest—by giving you a house full of children to keep you awake all night and snore molasses candy over your Sunday coat. Besides, a woman is a very convenient article to have around the house.

She is handy to swear at when ever you cut yourself with a razor and don't feel like blaming yourself.

Woman is the superior being in Massachusetts. There are about 50,000 more of her sex than males in that State. This accounts for the single men who have emigrated from the East.

Woman was not created perfect. She has her faults—such as false hair, false complexion, and so on.  
But she is a great deal better than her neighbor, and she knows it.

Even was a woman.  
She must have been a model wife, too, for it cost Adam nothing to keep her in clothes.  
Still I don't think she was happy. She couldn't go to the sewing circle and air her information about everybody she knew, nor excite the envy of other ladies by wearing her new winter bonnet to church.

[A monster, a wretch, whoever he is, that penned such an essay on the grandest of all God's creations—Jenny June.]

**False Generosity.**  
One cannot be really generous unless he is just. Should we call the man generous who took the bread that one poor man had earned for his children and gave it to another family because they were hungry? Yet what else does he do who holds a just debt, or takes advantage of a man's poverty or ignorance, to obtain from him goods at less than a fair price, and then bestows such ill-gotten gains upon any so-called benevolent object, public or private?

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## "Mary."

The Chicago "News" has this little essay on the name of Mary, showing the remarkable association connected with it:  
More women have been named Mary than any other name which has blessed or cursed the feminine sex. It stands as the typical name of the holiest and most abject of women—for the virgin and the wanton. And in every language in Asia and Europe, as well as that of Egypt, this name appears almost without variation. It has been an equal favorite with the aristocrats of France and the Puritans of New England, and it equally becomes literature or kitchen. It is stateliness when we speak of Mary Wortley Montague, it is simplicity itself when we refer to Mary O'Brien, who brings in our breakfast rolls. At one time it may bring up a picture of a divinely painted face, hanging in the rich gloom of an Italian gallery, and at another of a red cheeked dairy maid, with her bare feet in the daisied grass. Two of England's five Queens have borne it, and the most memorable woman that Scotland ever produced has made it immortal.

The proudest women in France have dignified it, and the worst women of Russia have disgraced it. There are as many Marys smiling at the cowering suns that make the brief summer by the Northern seas as roll through the luxurious days by Mediterranean. The name that Catholic missionaries gave to the converted Indian maiden was Mary, and perhaps the first daughter of every family for all time will stand in imminent danger of bearing the name, for it is the first to be considered in naming girl babies, and when rejected is always thought of with lingering tenderness. How many lovers have loved it! How they associated it with purity and gentleness, with womanliness and candor and trust! What a fateful name it is! Its bearer seems predestined to sorrow, yet it is gladness, too. "My mother's name was Mary." "What a pleasant thing to say! 'My little daughter Mary.' Could anything be prettier? 'My sister Mary, who is dead.' What a wealth of tender suggestions! 'Mary, my wife.' What a picture of home comfort!"

## The Right to be Single.

There is a phase of woman's rights which seems to escape the consideration it deserves, and that is the right of a young woman to remain single if she desires to do so. The men do not challenge this right. It is her own sex which, urged by a variety of very subtle reasons, conspires to put a sort of stigma on women who have no inclination to matrimony and by the opprobrious epithet of 'old maids' force disesteeming and fastidious women into unsuitable and unhappy marriages. A man is not abused for not taking a partner in business, nor does he suffer reproach because he fails to marry. A woman ought not by social pressure be urged into marriage when she has no desire that way or has found no man to whom her judgment and affections alike incline. Certainly not to marry is better than to marry badly, and were it not for the fuss woman makes over the event as if it were the one really needful affair, there would be fewer foolish unions of the kind. A young woman displays first rate sense and fine character in refusing to marry unless all the conditions are satisfactory and she has abundant reason to be satisfied with her course when she looks around and notes the ill-assorted people who find the marriage institution a daily yoke that grows no easier with the wearing.

## "The Quickest Way."

Mr. Brown wanted a boy. Charlie Jones wanted the place. He was told to put a screw in the gate hinge.  
"Oh, yes, I can do that!" And he seized a hammer and gave the screw two or three hard whacks.  
"Stop! stop! that is not the way." "That is the quickest way."  
"But the quickest way is not always the right way. I want no boy who puts in screws with a hammer."

There are a great many boys who drive screws with a hammer, and a great many places that do not want them for that reason. There are Charlies and Marys who will learn their lessons the "quickest way" instead of the right way. And in everything, whether it is running an errand, sewing a seam, or, as they become older, doing more important things, they are not content with the slower but surer way of one patient turn after another. They skim over the lesson, and then try to make up brilliant answers in class, or double the thread and take one stitch where they should be three, or dash off before they half understand what it is about or how what they say is going to sound. No boy or girl who drives screws with a hammer can succeed.

## The Boy Was Safe.

At noon yesterday a Michigan avenue greeter made a sudden dash for his open door, and a boy who had been standing outside made just as sudden a dash for the middle of the street.  
"I tell you I won't stand this much longer," shouted the greeter as he shook his fist at the boy.  
"What was I doing?"  
"You were breaking these carrots to pieces."

"Well, can't a fellow see if they are?"  
"You look out! I'll have an officer after you!"

"The one on this beat?"  
"Yes, the one on this beat!"  
"Hats! He's a courting my sister, and you can imagine the sort of a collar he'd give me! Just let him walk me down and Belle will shake him like an old door mat!"

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## Five Thousand Mistakes in Webster.

This incident may not be known generally to our readers, and we venture to reprint it. When the unabridged edition of Webster's dictionary appeared (without a definition of the word unabridged) a great scholar, Caleb Cushing, wrote a criticism on the stenographers working away that, for its size, it had as few errors as could be expected. This puzzled the editors, who asked for an explanation of Mr. Cushing's information on the subject of these errors. In reply Mr. Cushing marked 5,000 mistakes in the volume which had been presented to him and sent it back.

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